



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs
4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737-1232 • Voice (301) 734-7799 • Web: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

Melissa O'Dell (301) 734-5222
Andrea McNally (301) 734-0602

USDA ALLOWS IMPORTATION OF CHILEAN SWEET ORANGES AND GRAPEFRUIT

WASHINGTON, April 7, 2009--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service today announced that it will allow, under certain conditions, the importation of sweet oranges and grapefruit from Chile into the United States.

To be eligible for importation, both commodities must be accompanied by an import permit and undergo cold treatment if they were grown in areas of Chile where the Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) is known to occur. The shipment must also be accompanied by documentation certifying that the fruit was treated in Chile.

Additionally, the fruit must either be treated with methyl bromide or produced in accordance with a systems approach--a set of plant health procedures intended to substantially reduce the risk of introducing foreign pests into the United States. The systems approach requires the production site to be certified annually by the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of Chile. The certification will be used to monitor the health of the production site and track the origin of the shipments. Once certified, the fruit would undergo post-harvest processing and is subject to inspection prior to exportation to the United States. In addition, the commodities would have to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate signed by the NPPO of Chile, stating that the fruit was inspected and found free of plant pests.

The conditions for entry are the same as those that currently apply for Chilean clementines, mandarins and tangerines and have proven effective against the introduction of Medfly and the Chilean false red mite since 2004.

This final rule is published in the April 7 *Federal Register* and becomes effective May 7.

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